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NC CONFEDERATE UNIFORM PROPOSAL NEARS COMPLETION



After over a three-year research and writing project, the section's costume proposal for a North Carolina Confederate soldier is nearly complete. Unlike other costume research, this proposal was undertaken as a committee project with staff members from the Civil War sites working on various assignments. Morris Bass (CSS *Neuse*), Donny Taylor (CSS *Neuse*), Brenda Marshburn (Fort Anderson), Becky Sawyer (Bentonville), and Kent McCoury (Bennett Place) each researched a portion of the North Carolina Confederate soldier's uniform and accouterments. Cliff Tyndall assisted with review of these projects and various other research topics. The North Carolina Confederate soldier is relevant to each of the section's Civil War sites, so the committee approach for research was quickly adopted.

The group began major research in November 1998 with a visit to Richmond, Virginia. Original uniform and equipment items were examined, sketched, and photographed from collections at the Museum of the Confederacy, Valentine Museum, and U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum. The group visited and toured the new Civil War exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of History, where examples of uniforms, headgear, shoes, socks, and accouterments were available for viewing and study. In addition to examining original items from museums, the group studied period photographs, analyzed uniform and equipment research books, and discussed various items with potential vendors.

The project could only be completed as quickly as individual research topics were submitted and reviewed. Due to site needs (such as hurricane damage) and staff responsibilities, the work has taken longer to complete than originally projected. As of November 2000 all portions of the proposal have been submitted for review by the section's costume committee, and completion of the North Carolina Confederate soldier uniform project is near. By 2001 Civil War sites will be able to begin purchasing new reproduction uniform and equipment items needed for interpretive programs. This has been a long process, but the final completion of this project ensures the accuracy and correctness of our representation of the North Carolina Confederate soldier at our historic sites.

(Cliff Tyndall)

PIEDMONT EXHIBIT TO OPEN IN DECEMBER

Piedmont Sets the Pace, the first exhibit of Piedmont Airlines history ever created, will open at the N.C. Transportation Museum (NCTM) in December.

The exhibit will feature pilot and flight attendant uniforms, models of airplanes from the Piedmont fleet, dozens of photographs showing the airline's history, a replica model of a ticket counter, and a framed photo of the company's Charlotte hub.

Piedmont Airlines, based in Winston-Salem, was known for customer service, safety, and a family atmosphere among its employees and passengers. "Piedmont Sets the Pace" was the airline's motto. The late Tom Davis, the airline's founder and longtime president, won many awards for his innovative leadership.

A number of items from Davis's personal collection will be displayed, courtesy of the Piedmont Aviation Historical Society. The Tom Davis Fund, a Winston-Salem based foundation, is funding the exhibit.

Cheryl Hartman, former administrative assistant to Tom Davis and current executive director of the Tom Davis Fund, predicts "thousands of museum visitors will enjoy reminiscing about the most respected airline and airline executive in the industry."

The exhibit, scheduled for a one-year run, will be located in the *Wagons, Wheels and Wings* exhibit hall. Museum exhibits coordinator Bob Hopkins and transportation historian Walter Turner designed the exhibit.

NCTM executive director Elizabeth Smith, whose father was a Piedmont Airlines station manager in Kinston and New Bern, has many fond memories of the airline. "This exhibit is an exciting opportunity for our museum to proudly showcase North Carolina's homegrown airline."

Many early Piedmont planes were DC-3s. The Carolinas Aviation Museum at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport flies a restored Piedmont DC-3 to air shows.

(Walter Turner)

REPAIR AND RENOVATION FUNDS AT SITES

The General Assembly has released repair and renovation funds for several projects at the state historic sites. The second phase of work at the Chowan County Courthouse is being undertaken with \$650,000 in these monies. At Somerset Place \$400,000 is available for reconstruction of a large two-story slave house and the slave hospital serving the enslaved community in antebellum days. The Transportation Museum has received \$900,000 to be used primarily (\$500,000) for continuing renovation of the back shop as well as for concrete and roof repairs at the Julian Roundhouse, painting the water towers, and major roof repairs at the Barber Junction Depot. In addition \$667,000 is being utilized for statewide fire and security systems at government buildings including a number of structures at state historic sites.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT THE SITES



- *December 2* **Bentonville Battleground.** Christmas Open House. The site will hold an open house showing how Christmas was celebrated during the Civil War. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes. 1-4 P.M.
- *December 3* **Reed Gold Mine.** Reed's Christmas Celebration. Decorated visitor center, demonstrations of 19th-century life-styles, handbell and vocal choirs, underground tours, stamp mill tours, and refreshments. 1-5 P.M.
- *December 5* **Somerset Place.** Christmas Open House. Local churches representing all denominations come together to decorate the Collins Mansion. Refreshments will be served.
- *December 5, 7* **Aycock Birthplace.** Christmas Candlelight Tours. Costumed interpreters describe Christmas traditions of the 19th century. Primitive Baptist singers perform a cappella in the visitor center. Children's program in the schoolhouse. 6:30-9 P.M. Bring flashlights.
- *December 7, 14* **Horne Creek Farm.** Christmas by Lamplight. Experience the warmth of a rural Christmas from a century ago. Music and food of the era will be featured. Nominal fee for refreshments. 4-8 P.M.
- *December 8* **Historic Edenton.** Caroling on the Courthouse Green. An evening of carols in front of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. 6-7 P.M.
- *December 8* **Duke Homestead.** Christmas by Candlelight. The homestead is decorated as the Duke family would have celebrated Christmas. The event features evening tours of the house by costumed interpreters. Special music and refreshments. 7-9 P.M. Groups should make reservations.
- *December 8-9* **Historic Edenton.** Iredell House Groaning Board. Home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Iredell decorated for the holiday season, featuring 18th-century-style decorations, harpsichord music, and a dessert groaning board. 1-5 P.M.
- *December 9* **Historic Halifax.** Christmas in Halifax. Traditional holiday activities and guided tours of historic buildings. 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
- *December 9, 10, 16, 17* **North Carolina Transportation Museum.** Santa Train. Ride our passenger train with Santa Claus and receive candy and oranges. Children of all ages are encouraged to bring wish lists. Children can participate in the reading of the Christmas story *The Polar Express*. Sat., 9 A.M.-5 P.M.; Sun., 1-5 P.M. \$3 per person.
- *December 10* **Polk Memorial.** Christmas Open House. Explore the religious and social customs of the season through first-person interpretation and living history demonstrations. 1-4 P.M.
- *December 10* **Alamance Battleground.** Christmas and the Apple. A focus on seasonal uses of the apple. 1-5 P.M.
- *December 10* **Bennett Place.** Christmas Open House. 1-4 P.M.
- *December 10* **Vance Birthplace.** Christmas Open House and Candlelight Tours. Guided tours of reconstructed 1830s log house, highlighting decorations. 1-6 P.M. Candlelight tours, 4-6 P.M.
- *December 10* **House in the Horseshoe.** Christmas Open House. The house will be decorated in colonial fashion for the holidays. There will be music in the parlor, an exhibition of cannon-firing on the lawn, people dressed in period clothes, and free refreshments. Noon-6 P.M.
- *December 10* **Historic Bath.** Christmas Open House. The Palmer-Marsh House (1751), the Bonner House (ca. 1830), and the Van Der Veer House (ca. 1790) will be decorated for the holidays. 1-5 P.M.
- *December 15* **Duke Homestead.** Christmas by Candlelight. The 1852 homestead is decorated as the Duke family celebrated Christmas. The event features evening tours of the house led by costumed interpreters. Also special music and refreshments. 7-9 P.M.
- *December 17* **Brown Memorial.** Christmas Open House. Local choirs sing holiday songs. Homemade refreshments. Noon-6 P.M.

IT'S ABOUT TIME



Harold Gunn of Tannenbaum Historic Park demonstrating colonial games.

The Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial hosted its annual "hands-on" history event on November 13-14, 2000. "It's About Time" has become the largest exhibition of North Carolina's historic sites and museums doing demonstrations or exhibits about themselves. The event is held each fall with students in the fourth and eighth grades as our special guests. Schools that participated this year came from eight counties: Alamance, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Orange, and Wake.

The great success of the event can be attributed to both excellent school group participation as well as exhibitors and demonstrators from state and local museums, national parks, historic sites, and others. There were more exhibitors (thirty-seven) and higher group participation this year.

The students and teachers enjoyed all of the exhibitors; however, there were four especially popular programs. Gloria Edwards and Monica Moody from Halifax allowed students to make whirligigs. A Biltmore Estate staff member told (in first-person) stories from actual employees of George Washington Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate. The stories were about what it was like to live and work there a century ago. Tryon Palace staff members demonstrated and instructed young people in country colonial dancing and strategy games. Staff member



Steve Allen of Historic Oak View County Park in Raleigh showing how to gin cotton.



"Carl Sandburg" speaks at the CHB belltower with the help of Elena Miller from the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

Elena Miller of the Carl Sandburg Home (a National Park Service site) did a puppet show. All of these interpreters were a big hit.

We had a total of 3,126 students and general visitors for the two-day event. Mitch Lewis from UNC-TV did a wonderful ten-minute segment the next day on *Carolina Now*.

The CHB staff would like to thank everyone—all the historic sites and museums that participated, staff from the State Capitol, Tryon Palace and the National Park Service, Ed Morris, John Beaver, Jim Willard, and all volunteers for the wonderful job you did in making this a most successful event. We could not have pulled it off without you.

(Linda Jones)

THOMAS WOWS "EM WITH 39,881 VISITORS IN SIX DAYS

Thomas the Tank Engine has proven to be the most popular special event ever held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. During six days, over two amazing weekends in October, Thomas attracted nearly forty thousand guests to the museum. The occasion surpassed the previous record attendance for a special event at the museum, set last year as well by Thomas.

Congratulations to all volunteers and staff at the Transportation Museum who helped produce this stupendous event and related activities of unprecedented scale.

ALAMANCE HOSTS 21ST COLONIAL LIVING WEEK



Despite colder than normal temperatures on Monday and early Tuesday, the weather for this year's Colonial Living Week in October was great and helped make the twenty-first edition of the annual event a success. Colonial Living Week is one of the oldest continuously running special events at any of our state historic sites. With assistance from site volunteers and sectional employees, a total of 2,303 visitors (including 1,541 students) enjoyed various

demonstrations. Students came from Alamance and the counties of Granville, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, and Wake.

Visitors benefited from the opportunity to learn about colonial-era blacksmithing, candlemaking, cider making, cooking, meat preservation, papermaking, spinning, and woodworking. Those in attendance also viewed demonstrations focusing on period artillery, clothing, flintlock weapons, music, surveying, and toys. In addition, the Allen House and a Town Creek Indian Mound display drew quite an interest.

We at Alamance would like to personally thank a number of individuals from the section for their assistance. Our thank-you list begins with John Dysart (accompanied by his children Johnny, Jay, and Susanna), Joanie Freeman, Gary Gage, Mia Graham, Louise Huston, Kent McCoury, Tammy Medlin, Earlene Rogers, Bill Thompson, and Barbara Wiley. Special recognition also goes out to Morris Bass, Dale Coats, Jennifer Farley, Heather Fearnbach, Brian Howell, Johnny Joyner, Ed Morris, Cliff Tyndall, and Don Wooten. Mary Bradford and Beth Lawrence, who are both former employees of the section, also shared their expertise. Thank you all for your dedication!

(Teresa Martindale)

LINKING PRESERVATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR AESTHETICS AND PROFIT

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has just published *Locating Telecommunication Towers in Historic Buildings* (October 2000), which suggests ways to locate wireless towers in existing, particularly historic, buildings to protect historic and scenic areas from the clutter of industrial-style microwave towers. These hidden towers can be placed on existing structures such as office buildings, churches, silos (of which North Carolina has few), and fire towers. One large church in Raleigh, for instance, earns about \$1,300 monthly in rent and also received a new telephone system as part of the arrangement. The report may be ordered from the trust for ten dollars by calling (202) 588-6296 or going on-line at www.nthpbooks.org. Why not consider if your site or another local landmark has an eligible structure?

FIELD TRIP PLANNER FOR TEACHERS NOW AVAILABLE



The section has received five thousand copies of the its new field trip planner, which describes facilities and programs at the twenty-two state historic sites. The planner will be distributed to all one hundred counties in the state to enable fourth- and eighth-grade teachers to better plan their students' educational trips to the sites. A statewide committee representing the different sites will decide on procedures for distribution of the publications.

Elaine Beck, David Latham, Cliff Tyndall, and Ed Morris of the home office staff played key roles in production of the planner, for which intern Jennifer Winborne assembled basic information. Rob Boyette provided enthusiasm and guidance for the overall project, and teachers from Stantonsburg Elementary, where Rob's wife Beverly is principal, along with teachers from a number of Wake County middle schools took part in focus groups to make the document more useful. Designer Sharon Dean, who designs all historic sites brochures, provided an attractive design with a full-color cover.

MARK MOORE'S CSS NEUSE AND BENTONVILLE WEB SITES WIN AWARDS

William G. Thomas and Alice Carter, editors of *The Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites* (Scholarly Resources, Inc., October 2000) have named Mark Moore's CSS Neuse and Bentonville Battleground Web sites "SR Books Best Civil War Website Selections." The sites were judged on content, aesthetics, and navigation and are two of only 95 sites (out of some 600,000 known Civil War Web sites) awarded this honor. Additional sites receive brief mention in the book.

The Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites, compiled and edited by Thomas, director of the Virginia Center for Digital History, and Carter of *The New York Times* on the Web, is available at bookstores, including online booksellers such as Amazon.com, for about \$55 in hardback and \$19 in paperback editions. The authors included only the most carefully constructed, highly informative, beautifully designed sites on the Civil War. A CD-ROM with hotlinks to all reviewed sites accompanies the book.

The prepublication reviews of *The Civil War on the Web* have been outstanding. Civil War historian Gary Gallagher writes in the forward, "It deserves a place on any shelf of basic reference books on the Civil War." Pulitzer Prize-winning author James M. McPherson calls it "a fantastic time-saver for anyone who wants to study the war on the Web." A review in the December issue of *Civil War Times Illustrated* raves that "if you buy only one book this year on the Civil War, *The Civil War on the Web* should be it."

Congratulations to Mark Moore who created the Web sites for CSS Neuse and Bentonville Battleground and maintains all of the Web sites for Historic Sites.

(David Latham)

NEW WEB SITE FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

Check out a new Web site entitled *Common-place* at www.common-place.org. It is described as a "common place for exploring and exchanging ideas about early American history and culture" before 1900. It is a place to read insightful analysis on almost anything relating to pre-20th century life in America and is also a place to exchange ideas with fellow scholars and others. The first issue was published in September of this year and is very informative. It has articles ranging from the perceived history of guns in America to how to teach gender to high school history students to the debate on historically accurate costumes in movies and on television. There is also a call to contribute articles. This is a very interesting Web site that is in its beginning stages, so anyone interested should check it out. The editors of this new site are Jill Lepore of Boston University and Jane Kamensky of Brandeis University; other scholars from across the nation support their efforts.

(Elizabeth Sumner)

BILL POWELL WINS NORTH CAROLINA AWARD

On November 27 William S. "Bill" Powell, chairman of the N.C. Historical Commission and professor emeritus of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received the state's highest honor, the North Carolina Award, from Gov. James B. Hunt. Powell has taught North Carolina history to countless students at Chapel Hill. He is the author of numerous textbooks (including the standard college survey volume) and monographs on the state's history and a longtime friend of Historic Sites and Archives and History.

In fact, he met his wife Virginia early in his career while both were working at the State Archives. Powell then served for many years as director of the North Carolina Collection at UNC before becoming professor of history there. Bill and Virginia Powell are frequent and welcome visitors to special events at various sites.

Congratulations to Mr. Powell!

HISTORIC BATH HAS STATE CHAMPION PECAN TREE



Ever wonder which of our sites have some of the state's most notable trees? Are the Kelly Oak at Reed Gold Mine or the trees in the front yard at Duke Homestead among them? We don't know for sure, but one tree that is undisputedly on the "notable" list is behind the Bonner House in Bath. That winner is a huge pecan tree well over one hundred feet tall and recognized by the Garden Club of North Carolina as the state champion pecan. Such award winners are determined by a point system measuring the diameter, height, and spread of a tree. The tree is also the recipient of a heritage tree award from the Washington Garden Club.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Dianne Wallace (NCTM) was promoted to historic site manager II.
- Stan Little, formerly of the Archives and History Eastern office, began as interpreter I at NCTM.
- Will Vanderburg (NCTM) left as interpreter III.
- Jennifer Johnson (NCTM) began as information and communications specialist I.
- Laura Ketcham (Duke) began as interpreter I.
- Terry Haywood (Horne Creek) left as interpreter I.
- Wayne Steelman (Horne Creek) began as maintenance mechanic II.
- Donny Taylor, formerly of the CSS *Neuse* was promoted to historic site manager III at Bentonville.
- Steven Green (Halifax) began as historic interpreter II.

YOU'RE IN OUR THOUGHTS

- Tammy Bangert (Fisher) underwent foot surgery.
- Nancy Murray's (Home Office) father passed away
- Leland Smith's (Fisher) son was in the hospital.
- Tommy Stirewalt (Craft Services) suffered a stroke and is in the hospital.



Wishing
everyone a safe
and happy
holiday season!!